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With Sunday Morning Edition.

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In order to avoid delay on account of
personal affairs, letters to the editor, if
possible, should be addressed to the
editor, and not to the publisher, and
should be sent to the business department, according
to the address on the envelope.

The Chicago River Horror.

Human fault caused yesterday's
horror in Chicago, which cost the
lives of perhaps 1,300 people. Human
fault either made the steamboat un-
stable in construction, or omitted the
proper ballasting, or permitted the
overloading of the craft with its liv-
ing freight, so quickly plunged into
the river to die.

It is too early to determine just
what fault lies, whether in the
designers of the boat or those who
were operating it, or those who
managed the excursion and allowed
so large a number to go on board. It
has been stated that the steamer had
an almost similar accident several
years ago, when she keeled to one
side, and was prevented from turn-
ing turtle, as she did yesterday, by
prompt action in shifting the pas-
sengers quickly to the lifting side. It
is also reported that she was recog-
nized as unstable, and that part of
her upperworks had been removed,
only to be replaced later. The boat
has a sinister career, and her
continuance in service is a matter to
be investigated, to determine who
was responsible for the taking of re-
peated chances with human life.

It is tragic to find all the precau-
tions of inspection maintained by the
municipal and especially the federal
authorities negated by such catastro-
phes. The sacrifice of 1,300 lives
suggests that these precautions are
inadequate. Is there no assured
standard of safety? Can unstable,
dangerous craft remain in service
despite all the watchfulness of men
who are supposedly expert in such
matters?

Not only is it necessary to deter-
mine just who was to blame for yester-
day's disaster, but whether the
inspection of pleasure boats, used
each season by millions of people in
this country, is thorough. The Slo-
cum disaster in the East river of
twelve years ago proved that in some
respects the inspection of such craft
was a mockery. Now in the light of
that awful happening yesterday's
catastrophe suggests strongly that
once again the inspection has failed
to safeguard the people.

The United States government is
directly concerned. It has enacted
laws and appointed representatives
to see to their enforcement. Who-
ever in Chicago may have been at
fault especially in using the East-
land at all, or in overloading her, or
in managing her ballasting, or her
warping from the dock, the federal
administration must bear some mea-
sure of responsibility for allowing
such a vessel, with such a record of
instability, to remain in service.

German editors who assume that
the U. S. A. has been bluffing are not
acquainted with the game in which
the term is used. Otherwise they
would know that a man holding a
weak hand is always hopeful that
there is only a bluff to meet.

As an inventor of war machinery
Thomas Edison will show that a
peaceful and industrious life does not
prevent a man from doing his part in
an emergency.

After reading all the diplomatic
correspondence the conclusion must
be reached that the typewriter plays
no small part in international affairs.

Remarks by Col. Roosevelt indi-
cate that he does not regard China
as particularly lucky in being taken
under the protection of Japan.

Embarrassment at Albany.

This is an embarrassing time for
the democrats of New York to be
called upon to discuss a proposition
to make a governor of the state in-
eligible for a second term. He now
holds office for two years at \$10,000
a year, and is eligible for any number
of terms. But the constitutional
convention is asked to increase the
length of the term from two to four
years, increase the salary from ten to
twenty thousand a year, and forbid
re-election.

The argument runs very much in
line with that offered in support of
one term for a President of the
United States. The incumbent man-
euvers during his first term for a
second, and thus puts his personal
ambition above the public interests.
Make him ineligible to succeed him-
self and he will make a better official.
If the New York democrats sup-
port the proposition respecting the
state's chief executive, they may be
accused of making a sly thrust at the
country's chief executive. What is
sauce for the New Yorks, they may be
told, should be sauce for the United
States.

Mr. Wilson is not popular with the
rank and file of his party in New
York. They would be glad of an op-
portunity to vote for some other

democrat next year. He won at Bal-
timore over their protests and as
President has not distributed the lo-
cal patronage to suit them. Some of
it remains undistributed, owing to the
bad feeling that exists between him
and the organization.

But they see, as do others, that the
party now leans upon Mr. Wilson.
Whatever strength it has is stayed on
him. It practically has no choice. It
must renounce him, or confess failure.
A campaign under any other
leader—even as strong a man as Mr.
Clark—would be foredoomed to de-
feat.

The Baltimore platform does not
bar Mr. Wilson from renomination.
Besides, that deliverance long since
went to the scrap heap. The plank
about the Panama canal tolls and
that about economy were both re-
pudiated after the party came into
power. Although the tariff was not
revised, the cost of living was not low-
ered, and business suffered depression.
Why, then, single out the one-
term plank as a basis for giving an
exhibition of conscientiousness?

The New Yorkers should increase
the salary attaching to the govern-
orship to the figure proposed; but
they might well afford to leave the
other matter as it now is. A poor
governor never gets a second term,
and a good one should have a second.

Electric Current Rates.

The public utilities commission has
undertaken to ascertain the facts re-
garding the relations between the
Potomac Electric Power Company
and the Washington Railway and
Electric Company, which have been
the subject of discussion for some
time, and were, in fact, the subject
of a bill in Congress definitely pro-
viding for their separation. It is a
matter of public comment that the
dividends of the traction company are
paid largely, if not mainly, out of the
earnings of the power company. If
this is true it means that the power
company is earning exorbitant
profits, and this in turn means that
it is charging exorbitant rates to the
public. It also means that dividends
are paid upon traction stock that are
not earned by the company in its
own operation. The specific object of
the inquiry to be undertaken at the
hearing soon to be held relates to the
rates charged by the power company
for power furnished to the traction
company and other utilities. This
logically leads to a determina-
tion of whether there is any unjust
or unreasonable discrimination in
favor of or against any consumer.

The question in which the public
is chiefly interested is whether
there is discrimination between con-
sumers on the part of the power
company, and whether the rates
charged for electric current to private
consumers are reasonable, regardless
of whatever may be charged to large
consumers like the traction company.
If it should be disclosed through
this hearing that the power company,
which is subsidiary to and in a way
identical with the traction company,
furnishes power to the traction com-
pany at merely nominal rates, while
it is charging private consumers such
prices as to yield great profits, that
fact is of vital importance in deter-
mining the relationship between the
corporations and the ill effects of that
relationship upon a private consumer
of electric current.

There are no local conditions that
justify the rates charged here for
electric current, which are high com-
pared with those charged elsewhere.
If the private consumer is paying a
high rate for current because the
power company supplies the traction
company with power at or about at
cost, and in addition pays the divi-
dends of the traction company out
of its earnings derived from the private
consumers, the utilities commis-
sioner will be justified in revising the
rates charged to private consumers,
whatever may be the corporate re-
lations between the two companies.
Indeed, it will be required by the public
interests to do so.

As an inventor of war machinery
Thomas Edison will show that the kaiser
had to disclaim the statement at-
tributed to him that the war would
end in October. It was one of the
best things he has been quoted as
saying.

No doubt improvements will be
made that will cause submarine op-
erators in their turn to wish for
some legal restraint on the applica-
tions of science to war.

Editor Henry Watterson is very
indignant with some of the leading
officials of Europe, and there is no
hope whatever of any reconciliation
being effected.

Becker's disclosures are very far
from being as startling as the actual
testimony.

Party Divisions.

In connection with the report that
Mr. Bryan will head a revolt next
year against Mr. Wilson somebody
recalls the democratic division in
1860, which brought in the republic-
ans, and the republican division in
1912, which brought in the democr-
ats. Those were notable perform-
ances.

Roosevelt. There were really no un-
adjustable differences over policies.
Mr. Roosevelt would have accepted the
platform written for Mr. Taft. The
platform prepared for him was an
afterthought—an effort to give him
a sort of standing as a bolter. But
the row brought in Mr. Wilson, and
Mr. Wilson brought in Mr. Bryan.

It looks now very much as if the
republicans were in the process of
reunion. Many men who followed
Mr. Roosevelt out of the party have
returned, and he himself is believed
by some to be on the way. At any
rate, he is not as bitter today toward
his old associates as when he broke
with them.

Shall we see Mr. Roosevelt, on his
way back home, and Mr. Bryan, on
his way from home, meet in the road
next year? Such a meeting would be
interesting. "How's the going?" Mr.
Bryan might ask. "Rough, old man,
and no mistake," Mr. Roosevelt
might answer. "Would you advise
me to turn back?" "Well—no. Your
experience will do you good, and me
good. You have my blessing."

Mr. Bryan has not yet said any-
thing indicating a purpose to oppose
Mr. Wilson for a second term, and
he may not take the step. But if he
does, the result will be as easily cal-
culable by him as by others. The
democratic party will be knocked into
a cocked hat; and such a fate,
after handling so many important
domestic problems and such unusual
foreign problems, would probably
mean another quarter century in the
wilderness, with the sky for shelter
and hawks for provender.

The Three Notes to Germany.

The three American notes to Ger-
many, concluding with that just dis-
patched, comprise a series of re-
markable state papers, unexcelled for
their vigor and clarity of expression,
their soundness of reasoning and
their unswerving statement of prin-
ciples. They are models of diplomatic
deliverances. The American people,
ascribing their production to Presi-
dent Wilson, are proud of them, as
well for their form as for the high-
minded patriotism which inspired
them. None of the international ex-
changes of a year ago, when the Eu-
ropean powers were in the midst of
their futile efforts to avert the catas-
trophe of war, compares with these
documents in point of strength and
clarity. They add to the glory of
American statesmanship, and will be
cherished in years to come as the
record of a negotiation for the es-
tablishment and observance of a su-
preme principle of humanity.

Railways which claim that carrying
mails for the government does not
pay may state their grievances, but
cannot afford to adopt any methods
that savor of the strike.

Predictions as to effects of the war
at least agree on the proposition that
America will have men, money and
merchandise, and that all three will
be in great demand.

With William Sulzer preparing to
put the movies into politics, the field
for film usefulness may be regarded
as expanding on important lines.

As a consistent advocate of peace,
Jane Addams refuses to lose her
temper when her requests for a ces-
sation of war are not heeded.

It would be a great relief to the
world if the Mexicans would quiet
down sufficiently to listen to a few
chautauqua lectures.

If Harry Thaw is as sane as he is
represented he must be sorry by this
time that he got into the moving pic-
tures.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Influence.

"Now that's what I call real in-
fluence," remarked Senator Sorghum,
complacently.

"To what do you refer?"

"I've managed to get a man who
has plugged away for years at a gov-
ernment position a remunerative job
in private life."

People frequently envy you the
good time they think you are having
and are not.

The Price.

The cost of war still brings dismay
As it is felt by great and small,
And people find they have to pay
For what they did not want at all.

Sagacity.

"Some dogs have almost human in-
telligence."

"I agree with you," answered Mr.
Growler. "I often think our pet
dogs tries to curry favor with my wife
by growling at me."

Hopeless Case.

"I don't believe half I read,"
said the cautious man.

"Yes," replied his critical relative,
"and that's generally the half that
mostn't isn't so."

Nightmare.

A mollycoddle's something weird,
Like serpents of the sea,
Or wangtungwoofuses so feared,
Whatever those may be.

A mollycoddle likes to nurse
His indolence so tame,
A wangtungwoofus is much worse;
You know it by his name.

No wangtungwoofus has been known
To roam the land so free,
But if one ever should be shown
How awful that would be!

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SEES IN
THE STAR

Nine out of ten Americans would guess
in vain at the significance of July 25,
and yet it marks the
organization of the
government agency
that has done more
perhaps to produce and maintain a na-
tional consciousness and a national
spirit than any other the Post Office
Department.

The anniversary has gone begging for
recognition for 140 years, for it was in
1775, a year before the Declaration of
Independence, that the postal system of
the American colonies was established
by the Continental Congress and placed
in charge of Benjamin Franklin. Later,
when the Constitution was adopted, the
system was taken over bodily and made
the Post Office Department of the United
States.

Post office officials are pointing out in
connection with the anniversary that
the growth of 140 years, so
stunningly emphasized when the crude
conditioned Franklin's day are con-
sidered side by side with the improve-
ments just now being made by the de-
partment, makes the date unusually in-
teresting.

Then mails were composed almost
entirely of letters, and the postal service
was confined to the Atlantic coast states,
and was made slowly by horseback, stage
coach and coasting schooner. Postage
was a heavy burden on the people, and
the department, which is now the
largest making use of land and sea,
ships, and which is operating in cities
motor cycles, automobiles and pneu-
matic tires, is preparing for its first step
toward a rural free delivery service. At
the same time that the motorization of the
service is being started, it is an-
nounced that before the end of the year
the last horse-drawn mail wagon will
be superseded by a motor vehicle. The
Washington city post office organization,
because practically all of the forward
steps in the development of the postal
service have been made by the Washing-
ton office, the complete motoriza-
tion of the city mail-handling plant is
being started.

The financial showing in connection
with the change, it is pointed out, in-
dicates that motorization of other gov-
ernment offices will be rapidly
made. It has been shown to be a money-
making proposition. According to fig-
ures received by the department, Otto
Praeger of Washington the contract
vehicles, mostly horse-drawn,
have cost the government \$1,000,000
and require a yearly outlay of \$45,000,
and the government-owned automobile
equipment that will replace them will
cost \$1,000,000 and require a yearly outlay
of \$10,000, a saving of \$35,000 a year,
unusually high depreciation allowance
of 20 per cent.

The automobile rural delivery service
that is about to be established is con-
sidered probably the most important de-
velopment of the postal department since
the creation of the rural free delivery
service in 1898. More than 100 auto-
mobiles will start out on their initial
trips in the next few days, and then on
will traverse daily except Sunday more
than 5,000 miles of rural post
office routes. The routes, which range
from 50 to 60 miles long, and the cars
will have a carrying capacity of not
less than 800 pounds and a cubic ca-
pacity of not less than 100 cubic feet.
The machines will, therefore, cover in
the same time more than twice the dis-
tance covered by the horse-drawn
route, and will have from four to five
times the capacity of the horse-drawn
vehicles.

For the present the government will
pay an increased salary and will re-
quire the carriers to furnish the auto-
mobiles. It is probable that in the
future the government will accept any
type of machine that is in good
running order and which fills the
requirements of the service. The
machines for rural delivery will be
standardized and will carry the gov-
ernment insignia.

The new service is expected by fed-
eral and local officials, who will ob-
serve it with interest, to be a great
impetus to rural development, since
only residents near first-class
highways can obtain the benefit of the
rapid motor service.

After taking for its own the cities
of the country, and in little less degree
the rural communities, the pleasure
motor is capturing the last
mountain fastnesses of the west. Under
the terms of an order of Secretary
Lane of the Department of the Interior
the last of the national parks barred
to the modern pleasure vehicle—the
Yellowstone—will be opened for motor
traffic.

The park will not be thrown open to
the machines without restrictions, for
the scores of stages operated in the
reservation make up a horse-drawn
system which the Interior department
officials feel should be carefully pro-
tected. Automobiles have been exclud-
ed heretofore because on the narrow
mountain roads, where the steep cliffs,
adequate protection could not be
insured to the established traffic and
many passengers carried. Now, how-
ever, an elaborate system similar
to that of a railroad train dispatcher's
office has been worked out, telephone
lines have been strung along the roads,
and arrangements have been made to
keep close check on the motor cars.

Under the scheme adopted the horse-
drawn and motor-driven traffic will be
kept entirely separate, and the auto-
mobiles will move in one general direction
in making a tour of the park. There will
be regular scheduled hours for starts
from all entrances and for returns. At
certain stations morning and afternoon,
and in all cases the motor cars will
leave after the horse-drawn stages.
A reasonable interval will be allowed
between the machines in which to reach
the next station, and if they do not arrive
on time they will be penalized.

Because the traffic problems in Yel-
lowstone Park are greater this year, the
department has decided to establish a
system of lookouts and telephone com-
munications that will make it possible to
start fighting the conflagration as soon as
the danger is discovered. With well-
known desire for efficiency, however, Uncle
Sam is determined to consider all factors
of the problem before he decides to
work to get the fire, if they can, on
nature herself—to end up beforehand
with the fire. The department is deter-
mined to keep the fire out of the park
at all costs, and for that purpose will
call for special efforts for defense.

While the principal observations of "fire
out" have been made in the northwest,
studies of these and other forest prob-
lems are being made in other of the
national timber reservations. These
studies have been going on for several
years, and have contributed in no small
part to the building up of the compar-
atively new department of the Interior.
Much important information in regard to
the influence of forests on stream flow,
on the soil, on the climate, and on the
most interesting facts brought out
is that in some cases forests, through
the process of evaporation from a body
of water of equal area, and so contribute
to the moisture in the air, and the at-
mosphere from which rain is precipitated.
Thus it has been shown that the national
forests are not only moisture conservers
but rain makers as well.

THE MEXICAN MERRY-GO-ROUND.

From the Galveston News.

Our observation, from a cursory perusal
of the dispatches, that Carranza and
Villa will have the same battles.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

The Mexican generals are taking
turns in holding Carranza city, but even
at that some of them are likely to get hurt.
From the Knoxville Sentinel.

Another Carranza victory has been
reported. And this recalls to mind the
fact that Villa is still willing to talk
matters over.

From the Fort Worth Record.

A report from Vera Cruz states that
the population of Mexico City seems
inclined to support Carranza's govern-
ment. Why should the populace show
concern? They have been pillaged

by all and helped by none of the
different parties and armies in control
during the past three years. They
have become so accustomed to being
skinned that one more flaying will
not matter.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

Carranza's men seem to have held
Mexico City just long enough to re-
move the few remaining pesos from the
national treasury.

From the Wilmington Evening Journal.

Gen. Carranza has been beaten his
second time. He has inflicted defeat
upon the Carranzistas near Monterrey.
If Gen. Carranza's troops have his
government recognized by the United
States he must make a better showing
than he is doing at the present time.

Just as the chief health problem of
Serbia hinges at this time on the lowly
house, the transmitter of typhus;
and as the maintenance of health in malarial
regions has always had to do with the
mosquito, so one of the most baffling
problems of the United States just now is
intimately concerned with the millions of
wood ticks of the west, which, it has been
determined, give to humans through their
bites the dreaded Rocky mountain spotted
fever.

The fever season is drawing to a
close, and the United States public health
service shows that there is no abatement of
the disease. On the contrary there is an
increase in the number of cases re-
ported, but it is pointed out that this
increase is due to the development of better
machinery for gathering statistics.

The disease has been confined
practically to the Rocky mountain states
and has appeared chiefly in Montana,
Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada. The
character of the disease, which is spread
to humans is widely distributed in the
west, however, and it has been deter-
mined that the public health service that
the infection can be carried from a sick ani-
mal to a healthy human by ticks frequenting
the eastern United States.

The first recognition of spotted
fever as a distinct disease in 1902 the
public health service has made a close
study of the malady and has undertaken
to control it by the use of the tick.
Inexplicably the disease has been found
to vary greatly in virulence in different
localities. Cases in some areas of infection
are of little more severity than measles
and in others are fatal. In Idaho there
were 25 cases in 1914 there were nine
cases with no deaths. In Idaho there
were 12 cases with 12 deaths. In Montana
there were 12 cases with 12 deaths.

The most virulent type of the fever
is the one that occurs in the mountain
states, and it is there that most of the
work of the public health service has
been directed. The course of this work
has been the service lost his life. The
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problems of the United States just now is
intimately concerned with the millions of
wood ticks of the west, which, it has been
determined, give to humans through their
bites the dreaded Rocky mountain spotted
fever.

The fever season is drawing to a
close, and the United States public health
service shows that there is no abatement of
the disease. On the contrary there is an
increase in the number of cases re-
ported, but it is pointed out that this
increase is due to the development of better
machinery for gathering statistics.

The disease has been confined
practically to the Rocky mountain states
and has appeared chiefly in Montana,
Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada. The
character of the disease, which is spread
to humans is widely distributed in the
west, however, and it has been deter-
mined that the public health service that
the infection can be carried from a sick ani-
mal to a healthy human by ticks frequenting
the eastern United States.